Investments in Ultra Mega Power Projects

3110. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J.DARDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be'pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has asked the Investment Commission to generate more interest among international power companies to invest in India's ultra mega power projects;

(b) whether a number of delegations visited US, Europe and China to attract investment for these mega projects;

(c) if so, how many foreign investors have agreed to invest in power sector in India;

(d) if so, what is the total amount they have invested so far; and

(e) the names of the States in which these power projects will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The scheme of Ultra Mega Power Project (UMPP) was discussed in detail by Finance Minister with representatives of leading industrialists on 13.1.2006. No specific reference has been made to Investment Commission in this regard.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Expression of Interest (Eol) were invited for following four projects—

	Number of Eols received
(i) Sasan UMPP, Madhya Pradesh	36
(ii) Mundara UMPP, Gujarat	35
(iii) Girye UMPP, Maharashtra	23
(N) Tadri UMPP, Karnataka	30

Notable global players, who have shown interest in the project, include Korea Electric Power Co., Mitsui & Co. Tokyo, Tronoh Alco Combine (Malaysia), Duncan Macneil, London, Khanjee Holding (US) Inc. Texas, Suimitomo Corporation. The size of actual investment by any of these companies or their consortium would depend upon the final selection of the bidders to be selected on the basis of international competitive bidding.

(e) In addition to States mentioned in (c) and (d) above, a project each is envisaged for development in State of Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

Loan and aid under APDRP

3111. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accorded special status to some of the backward States for grant of loan and aid under Acelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme, if so, the names of such States;

(b) what are the criteria of categorizing the States under the same;

(c) whether Government intend to accord special status to the State of Rajasthan in consideration of its being a Border and a famine ridden backward State to bring it at par with other such States; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Eleven States *viz.* Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttaranchal have been included under Special Category States for getting assistance under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programmes (APDRP).

(b) National Development Council (NDC) accords special status to the States as per the following guidelines:

- Strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries;
- Hilly and difficult terrains;
- Overall economic and infrastructural backwardness;
- Low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population; and
- Limited and weak resource base compared to development needs.

(c) There is no proposal in Ministry of Power to accord special status to Rajasthan.